

March 17, 2020

Faith Family,

Faith Christian School has been working hard to make arrangements for the ongoing coronavirus situation. Please take note of the following announcements.

- 1) Faith Christian School will be closed for the week of March 23 -27 for all students and staff.
- 2) Faith Christian Preschools – no decision for the week of March 23 -27 have been made at this time. A decision will be made by Friday, March 20 at noon.
- 3) Any other school-related events for the month of March has been cancelled.
- 4) No decision has been made for any school days beyond March 29. Scenarios are being discussed that could result in longer absence from school. Faith will be cautious but also slow to commit to lengthy absences until we see how this coronavirus situation develops.
- 5) From this time forward, a Schoolcast message will be sent out to make you aware of an update that will be posted on the school's website. The Quick School link to look in on the school's website will be labeled – Coronavirus Information. We have chosen this option because Schoolcast at times has been overwhelmed by thousands of schools trying to send lengthy updates at the same time. Plus, the website is a more centralized location for information.
- 6) **BIGGEST ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS UPDATE:**

On tomorrow, Wednesday March 18, Faith will have a pickup time for books, materials and assignments from 9 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 7 pm. K-5 through 6th grades will have items in bags on tables on the front sidewalk of the school. This will be a drive-thru setup. Everything needed will be in the bags. 7th through 12th will need to come in the school and get their needed items from their lockers and their class assignments from their homerooms. These assignments will be on desks that are labeled with their names. TOMORROW is the only day for pick-up.

Teachers will not be here to discuss or meet with parents or students. Any teacher that happens to be here will be in training for online teaching and will not be available.

Middle and High school students will not be allowed to congregate and talk in the school or the parking lot. They will be required to move as quickly as possible to get their items and leave the campus.

The assignments in the elementary bags and the assignments on the middle and high school desks should get the students through two weeks. The assignments will start next week. The week of March 23 – 27 will be assignments for the students to do on their own or in the case of the younger elementary students with the help of their parents. These assignments are to be returned once we are able to return to school.

Our goal, if we are required to be out longer, is to begin some online instruction the week of March 30 – April 3. This task is a major undertaking that we have already begun. We have begun to program technology that will allow this online instruction. Teachers will need to be

trained well enough so that the teachers can work from home independently with their students. PLEASE understand and be patient! It is a massive undertaking that we will be working through. Instructions for this method of instruction will be sent to parents in an update next week as well as in an update on the school's website.

- 7) Once all materials are picked up tomorrow, the school buildings will be locked and not accessible to any staff, students or parents until we are able to return to school. This includes the gym which is very popular for folks to stop by. **This is not a choice; it is a requirement!** Approval to enter the buildings will only be given by Mr. Daniel.
- 8) If you or your child is experiencing flu-like symptoms, please send someone else to pick up materials from the school.
- 9) As it will become necessary, Faith will be reassessing the school/preschool calendar for the rest of the year. We will make accommodations in the calendar as it becomes necessary. There have been many years that we missed quite a few days due to weather-related issues. Faith always did the right thing in making up days and instructional time as much as possible.
- 10) With all of this said, we are in uncharted waters. No one in education has ever been faced with the situation that is currently before us. If it was a snowstorm or a hurricane, we could look to how we have handled similar situations in the past. We are dealing with a much different situation – a virus that we cannot see while trying to educate in a manner that we never have before. We covet your prayers and your patience. We love our families, and it grieves us to have to cancel school. We are working hard to provide quality education in a different manner.

As we walk through this difficulty together, no doubt fear and questions can overwhelm us. We have to remind ourselves that this is not the first time that God's people have had to wrestle with an unseen affliction or enemy. Moses could not see the way through the Red Sea until God opened the way. Abraham went looking for a place that he had never been to or had never seen without a map, but God showed the way. The children of Israel many times faced an enemy that overwhelmed them, and it seemed impossible to defeat, but God sent angels, hornets, a shepherd boy, a fiery furnace or just revealed Himself to get them through. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. The virus may be something we cannot see, but we battle it; faith may be something we cannot see, but it battles for us. God is bigger! Sometimes, God just simply gives His people the grace to endure and go on. I often think of Jesus as He met so many during His earthly ministry who battled the infirmities of the flesh. Faith in the Master got them through. Dear friends, we may walk through rough days ahead. I remind you that the Shepherd only leads His sheep where He has already been Himself. Trust your Shepherd! Though the way gets rough, darkness hides the next step, obstacles pile up before me and I doubt that God is good and that He cares. I remind you that He knows your name; He sees you in the storm; He gives grace when the burden gets greater, and He is a good God.

Todd Daniel
FCS Administrator